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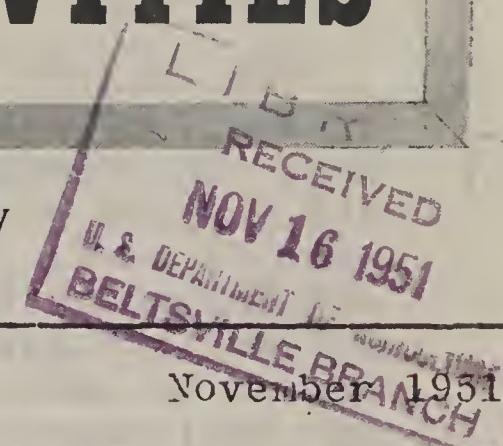
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B P I S A E RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

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PLANT INDUSTRY STATION, BELTSVILLE, MD.

November 1951



Mechanization Shapes Cotton Research

The need to intensify study of the agronomic phases of cotton mechanization was stressed by A.H. Moseman in his first official talk as Chief of the Bureau.

Speaking at the Fifth Beltwide Cotton Mechanization Conference at Chickasha, Okla., Nov. 8, Dr. Moseman pointed out that in mechanizing corn and small grains, we solved important production phases before we tackled mechanical harvesting. The practice of check planting preceded the corn picker, the grain drill came before the combine. But in cotton the harvester came first, and now we must work out a multitude of complex problems before we can make effective use of the machinery that has been developed.

In breeding, he said, this calls for the development of varieties with plants better adapted to machines, with vigorous seedlings suited to mechanized weed and grass control, with smooth leaves that make less trash, with habits of early fruiting and maturing.

Dr. Moseman also pointed to the need for additional information on planting to close stands, seed delinting, soil tilth and other conditions favorable to seed germination. We do not yet have an ideal combination of chemical and mechanical equipment for weed control nor completely satisfactory materials for defoliation for the entire Cotton Belt.

Mimeographed copies of Dr. Moseman's talk may be obtained from the Information Division, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville.

To: Employees of the Bureau

On October 29 the Secretary announced my appointment as Chief of the Soil Conservation Service, succeeding Dr. Bennett. I shall take over this new assignment on November 13.

The nearly ten years spent in this office have been most pleasant. The members of this Bureau are a grand group of people with whom to work. The research accomplishments by members of our staff for the benefit of agriculture have been outstanding. It has been a pleasure to be associated with each of you. I look upon this new assignment as a transfer from one line of duty in agriculture to another-- from Beltsville to Washington. I am sure that the stimulating experiences that I have had here will be beneficial to me in trying to be of further service to agriculture.

I shall expect to see those of you who live in the Washington area as usual, and will hope to see many of you in the field from time to time in the course of travel occasioned by my new work. Many thanks for your splendid cooperation and assistance to me at all times.

Sincerely yours,

Robert M. Salter

New Bureau Chief

A.H. Moseman, who succeeds Dr. Salter, is well known to research workers in the Bureau. A member of the administrative staff since 1944, he has been closely associated with program planning and integration of research. For the past four months as assistant chief, he has been responsible for planning and coordination of research activities.



Dr. Moseman began work for the Bureau in 1938 while a graduate student at the University of Minnesota. Trained in genetics, he took his BSA and MS at the University of Nebraska. His PhD is from the University of Minnesota.



Our Golden Jubilee

Although there were no official delegates, Pakistan, Portugal, Holland, Denmark, Brazil, and Canada were represented in the registration of 500 who attended the fiftieth anniversary program at Plant Industry Station, October 24-26.

The first day of the seminar was devoted to a look backward-- to the genesis of BPI by J.A. Stevenson; its growth by M.A. McCall; fifty years of progress-- in horticultural crops by J.R. Magness; field crops by W.M. Myers; soils and fertilizers by F.W. Parker; and agricultural engineering by A.W. Turner; in State-Federal cooperation by R.F. Poole, Clemson College, president of the Land Grant College Association.

Speakers the second day were: C.E. Kellogg on soil classification; W.V. Hukill on grain conditioning; W.E. Whitehouse on foreign plant introduction; H.A. Rodenhiser on plant breeding for disease resistance; L.M. Hutchins on diseases of forest trees; H.A. Borthwick on response to day length; L.J. Stadler on genetics of plants; S.L. Emsweller on induced polyploidy; S.B. Hendricks on tracer techniques; and J.W. Mitchell on growth regulators and antibiotics.

At the dinner and program which followed Thursday evening, we had a real link with the past in 6 guests of honor who had been on the staff of the Bureau when it was established in 1901. Colleagues of later years presented citations to C.R. Ball, W.R. Beatty, Edgar Brown, Frank Goll, Percy Ricker, and C.S. Scofield. "Researchers are like explorers," said P.V. Cardon in his talk on looking ahead. "They press back the borders of the unknown, scale new heights, blaze new trails, and acquire new knowledge for the guidance of those who follow and would profit by the quest of truth. The blazers of all trails will forever be motivated by the self-same magnificent objective-- the intelligent use of natural resources for the preservation and promotion of human welfare."

Assistant Secretary Knox T. Hutchinson brought greetings from Secretary Brannan and paid a tribute to agriculture's miracle men-- the scientists.

Plans are underway to process the proceedings. In the meanwhile the Division of Information has a limited number of mimeographed copies of the talks by Whitehouse, Turner, Hukill, Parker, and Myers. Press releases are available on the talks by Myers, Magness, Parker, Hukill, Rodenhiser, Stadler, Emsweller, Borthwick, and Hendricks.

Names in the News

R.Q. Parks was named head of the Division of Soil Management and Irrigation, Sept. 20. He has served as assistant head since 1947. B.H. Mewis, a graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism and former editor and associate professor at the University of Arkansas, assumed his duties as technical editor for the Bureau, August 13. James Tharp (SS) was made a fellow in the American Society of Agronomy at the annual meeting in State College, Pa. F.P. Cullinan is chairman of the governing board of the American Institute of Biological Sciences. G.F. Potter (F&NC&D) has been made an honorary life member of the American Tung Oil Industry in recognition of his research on tung production. W.M. Myers, director of research in field crops, received an award from the Alumni Institute of the University of Minnesota, recently, for outstanding contributions to forage crop improvement. Leo Holman has transferred from Urbana, Ill. to Beltsville to be assistant to Wallace Ashby, head of the Division of Farm Buildings and Rural Housing.

Retirements

James H. Beattie, horticulturist, retired Oct. 31 after more than 47 years of research and administrative work for the Bureau. He had a vital part in the building of Plant Industry Station from 1934 to 1944 when he served as superintendent. His research was on soils and storage problems of various crops. In recent years he worked on the improvement of peanut varieties. Mr. Beattie will continue to make his home at Cheverly, Md.

Juan B. Demaree, plant pathologist, retired Oct. 31 after more than 33 years of work that began with the study of pecan diseases and later covered small fruits. In recent years he has specialized in diseases of blueberry and in obtaining virus free stocks of many varieties of strawberries. He lives at 7008 Eversfield Drive, Hyattsville, Md.

Marion C. Goldsworthy, plant pathologist, widely known for his investigations of fungicides for fruit trees, retired Oct. 31. His work in the evaluation of new chemicals for fungicides was the basis for many of the potent chemicals recently introduced for this purpose. Dr. Goldsworthy will make his home in Berkeley, Calif.